

SUB
C3

A1

1. (once amended) A composition comprising a MTB39 antigen, having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:91 or 107, or an immunogenic fragment thereof from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex, and a MTB32A antigen, having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:79, or an immunogenic fragment thereof from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex.

2. (once amended) The composition of claim 1, comprising a MTB39 antigen, having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:91 or 107, or an immunogenic fragment thereof from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex, and a polypeptide comprising at least 205 amino acids of the N-terminus of a MTB32A antigen (SEQ ID NO:79) from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex.

3. (once amended) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a polypeptide comprising at least about 132 amino acids from the C-terminus of MTB32A antigen (SEQ ID NO:79) from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex.

4. (once amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein the fusion polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of MTB72F (SEQ ID NO:1).

SUB
C4

5. (once amended) The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one additional antigen from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of MTB8.4 antigen (SEQ ID NO:102), MTB9.8 antigen (SEQ ID NO:109), MTB9.9 antigen (SEQ ID NO:29), MTB40 antigen (SEQ ID NO:138), MTB41 antigen (SEQ ID NO:142), ESAT-6 antigen (SEQ ID NO:104), MTB85 complex antigen, or α -crystalline antigen, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

6

55. (new) The composition of claim 6, further comprising at least one additional antigen from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of MTB8.4 antigen (SEQ ID NO:102), MTB9.8 antigen (SEQ ID NO:109), MTB9.9 antigen (SEQ ID NO:29), MTB40 antigen (SEQ ID NO:138), MTB41 antigen

A2

C6

(SEQ ID NO:142), ESAT-6 antigen (SEQ IDNO:104), MTB85 complex antigen, or α -crystalline antigen, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

56. (new) The composition of claim 6, further comprising an adjuvant.

57. (new) The composition of claim 56, wherein the adjuvant comprises QS21 and MPL.

58. (new) The composition of claim 56, wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of AS2, ENHANZYN, MPL, QS21, CWS, TDM, AGP, CPG, Leif, saponin, and saponin mimetics.

59. (new) The composition of claim 6, further comprising BCG.

60. (new) The composition of claim 6, further comprising an NS1 antigen or an immunogenic fragment thereof from a *Mycobacterium* species of the tuberculosis complex.

61. (new) The composition of claim 55, wherein the *Mycobacterium* species is *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

A2 cont
C7
62. (new) The composition of claim 6, wherein the fusion polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of MTB72F (SEQ ID NO:2).

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 21, 2001, Applicants elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to protein compositions. The foregoing election is made with traverse, as the five groups set forth by the Examiner all stem from a common concept and theory, and are thus related. As such, prosecution of the claims of Groups I-IV would not place a substantially greater burden on the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction Requirement and consider all the claims together.